

85/86 **Two-goal Stein keeps**

**Luton 2,
Manchester City 1**

**Report by
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Luton happy

TWO goals from Brian Stein at Kenilworth Road yesterday maintained Luton's pressure on the First Division pace-setters.

Hatters were too slick and skilful for a workmanlike City side and despite a late penalty, the result was never really in doubt.

Luton got off to a sensational start with a goal after just two minutes. Preece took a free kick on the left after a foul on Thomas and as the ball was whipped across the goalmouth, Stein

guided it past Nixon with the side of the foot for his 12th goal of the season.

But City hit back strongly and when Breacker failed to cut out a ball to Davies, there was a golden chance to equalise.

As the cross came over, Wilson connected and only a great save by Sealey kept Luton in front.

The overlapping runs of full backs Thomas and Breacker caused havoc but, unfortunately for the Hatters, the approach work was not matched by the finish.

Nixon, who seemed to be

inheriting the hesitancy of his defence, dropped two easy catches before redeeming himself with a brilliant fingertip save from Thomas.

City worked hard after the break to get back on terms but still the chances fell Luton's way.

Stein spun in the box to bring a great save from Nixon and then Elliott skimmed the bar with a header.

Then it was Stein's turn again with a stinging drive fumbled by Nixon and the same player snaked a low shot wide when well placed.

Luton went further ahead after 65 minutes when Johnson fouled Stein. Preece floated over the free kick and Elliott's header caused panic and confusion before Stein eventually bumbled the ball over the line.

As City's frustration grew, Johnson was booked for a foul on Harford, after he and centre back partner McCarthy had escaped on several previous occasions.

With five minutes remaining Breacker needlessly gave away a penalty for a foul on Power and Lillis scored from the spot.